THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated a scheme for providing one time financial assistance for establishment of New Polytechnics in certain Specially Identified Districts in the country where there is no polytechnic at present. Nine such districts have been identified in Orissa.

Students in rural and urban areas

783. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOIJRCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students in rural and urban areas in the country who are getting vocational education, university education and technical education;

(b) whether the above percentages in developing countries are more than that in India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the scenario?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Annual enrolment figures of students getting vocational, university and technical education are not collected for rural and urban areas separately.

(c) The University Grants Commission implements various schemes of development assistance to eligible colleges and universities for improving quality of higher education. These schemes aim, *inter-alia*, at improving curriculum, strengthening infrastructure, orientation and in-service training of teachers, and encouraging research.

The scheme of vocationalisation of secondary education at +2 level is being implemented to provide financial assistance to States/UTs to set up administrative structure, area vocational surveys, preparation of curriculum, text-books, work book curriculum guides, training manual, teacher training programmes, strengthening technical support system for research and development, training and evaluation etc. It also provides financial assistance to NGOs and voluntary organizations for implementation of specific innovative projects for conducting short-term courses.

Financial aid to primary education

†784. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are avoiding to provide adequate financial aid to primary education despite imposing two per cent surcharge;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the tug of war between the Central and State Governments, the chances of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan hanging in mid-air have increased;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.